



CAPTAIN MARVEL ADVENTURES

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MARCH, 1948. Vol. 14. No. 52 CERTION NATE IS ISSUES FOR \$1.00 IN U. S. POSSESSIONE, AND CANADA CAPTAIN MARVIL ADVENTURES SUSCEPTION BATE

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Captain A P E L

M SIVANA MEETS AUNT MINERVA

















































































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HOBO OF THE VOID

A Jon Jarl Adventure

By Eando Binder



CAN you spare a sandwich and a cuppa coffee, lady?"

The woman stared from the door of her

home at the ill-clad unshaven figure before her. "A tramp, eh?" she said distantefully. "Yes, ma'am," he admitted slowly. "Just a space tramp. I roam all around the worlds, picking up hand-outs wherever T can get

'em."

"Why don't you get a job?" she said sharply.

"Listen, lady, I once had a job. A big job.

I——" He atopped and his eyes went bleak.
"But why hand you a hard-luck story? I'm
hungry right now, that's all."

SLAMI

That was the door closing abruptly in his face. The space hobo turned away slowly, then shrugged. There were many other homes in this crater of the Moon. He could try others and hope for a kinder reception. He was in giant Tycho crater, 54 miles across, one of the larvest on the Moon.

There was breathable air here, for so-called "heavy" air, had been pumped in.

There was also a low, quiet hum in the air. It came from the huge sprawling mass of machinery that almost crammed the crater from end to end. It was an Atomic Power Station. It had been set up on the Moon for safety's sake, and sent its power to Barth

via ether waves. Since Tycho, and the Moon, always faced the Earth, such power waves could be radiated down to Earth continuously, 24 hours a day. Down on Earth, almost all lights and factories and industries reserved their power from the AP Station on Luna.

Luna took a staff of 1000 men to keep the

as took a staff of 1000 men to keep the gigantic power plant in operation. Their families lived in a village on the crater floor. And it was among these families that the space hobo hoped to get a meal or two, before he moved on. He was about to knock on the next door, when a loud clanging sounded. An emergency alarm! Then he saw the men running from the power plant in frightened panic. "The power plant went wild!" acreeched

one engineer. "It's going to blow up?"
For the first time in a hundred years, the long-dreaded emergency had arisen. Atomic Power had been harnessed and used since the 20th century. But it had always been like a wild caged beast. It might at any moment break loose catastrophically.

The space hobo now heard the ominous rising drone from the power plant. It meant that untold millions of kilowatts of energy were building up to the breaking point—and

nobody could stop it!

The community was prepared for the emergency. They had held drills once a week. The men rounded up their families and dashed for the hangars. There, ten space ships were waiting, ready to take them away. One by one they wheeled out and people pited in.

The space hobo stopped one man, "Can't

The space hobo stopped one man. "Can't the explosion be prevented?" he asked. "No?" yelled back the engineer. "The control screens broke down. The whole plant is going hog wild. The whole place is going to

going hog wild. The whole place is going to blow up inside of an hour!"
"I'd better get a ride on one of those ships myself." the space tramp said, as if sudden-

ly realizing his own danger.

But at the first ship, a man shoved him back. "No room here. Try the next one!"

At the next one the answer was the same—and at the next. Finally, the space hobo

saw the last of the ships drum into the sky and vanish.

He was alone. Alone in the crater with a giant Atomic Power plant on the rampage!

THE alarming news spread all through space by radio. Not far beyond the Moon cruised the rocket ship of Lieutenant Jon Jarl, of the Space Patrol. He stiffened as a call came from headquarters on Earth. "Calling all Space Patrol Ships! Atomic

Power Station at Tycho reported soon to explode! Veer off, if you are near!"

explode! Veer off, if you are near!"
Jon snapped his hands to his controls, shooting away from the Moon. He was much too close if there were going to be an Atomic explosion. But at the same time, in curiosity, he petered back at Tycho through his small telescope. The powerful glass showed the plant clearly, the houses, and

Ion gasped. He also saw the lone figure

Jon gasped. He also saw the lone of a man down there!

Jon turned and raced back toward the Moon. It was a Space Policeman's duty to save lives when possible, as well as track down crime. Would there be time to pick up the stranded man and escape?

ON landed in Tycho, and leaped out of his ship. He found the space tramp staring at the power plant. He turned, surprised. "You young fool?" the hobe snapped.

"Why did you come?"

"To save you, naturally," Jon explained.

"I'm not worth saving," the space tramp

"I'm not worth saving," the space tramp returned. "Did you ever hear the name of Dr. Orel?"

"Dr. Orel? The scientist who had charge of the AP Station up on Asteroid Y, and let it blow up?" Jon gasped.

"That's me," nodded the hobo. "Or that was me, ten years ago. I was careless. I forgot to have the control screens repaired, The whole asteroid blew to lits, along with 500 men. I was on Mars at the time, on vacation. It was my fault. Like a coward, I field when they came for me. Since then I've been just a space hobo."

Jon grunted in pity. This derelict, once an honored scientist, was now just a tramp with 500 lives on his soul.

Jon suddenly had a horrifying thought.
"What if the whole Moon blows up like the
asteroid did?"

The hobo nodded grimly. "It could happen. Or, at least, the Moon might crack in half. And the two halves might then fall down on Earth."

Jon growned. It would be the worst catastrophe in human history. "Is there any way to stop the explosion—any way at all?"

The hobo's eyes suddenly shone strangely,
"I think there is!" he said swiftly. "If a man
enters the Fission Chamber with a cadmium
rod, he might be able to dampen the rays

pouring out. Of course, he won't come out alive . . ."
"Show me a cadmium rod." shouted Ion.

"Hurry!"
Together, they reced into the power plant.
A four-wheeled runabout shot them toward

the heart of the plant, where the raging fires of Atomic power were building up. like a furnace getting hotter and botter to the melting point. The air was hot. Leaking rays prickled their skin.

They stooped outside a towering graphite

chamber. Inside boiled the mighty atom energy, ready to burst forth and blow up the Moon. The hobo held up a long thick rod of dull metal.

"This is a cadmium rod," he panted. "It absorbs neutrons and dampens atomic energy, like water on fire."

ergy, like water on fire."

"Let me have it," yelled Jon, reaching for the red.

But instead of the rod, Jon received a jolting blow on the chin that blotted out his senses.

T was minutes later that Jon picked himself up, dazed. Then he remembered. He glanced anxiously at the Fission Chamber. It was culet. Only a low hum came from it,

like an AP plant in normal operation.

The sliding door of the Fission Chamber slowly opened. The space hobo was framed in the doorway. Jon shuddered. His clothing had been burned away. His skin was purple

and . . . glowing. Radioactive burn . . . no man could live after such exposure to the most killing radiations known. He must be in agony.

But the space hobo—or Dr. Orel—was smiling. "Sorry to clip you on the jaw," he croaked. "But you see . . . I had to make up . . . for the other . . . time!" Then his voice faded and died.

Jon rubbed his jaw. Then, stiffening and squaring his shoulders, he saluted the lifeless form on the floor. There was one thing would never go in the records—that he had ever been a space hobo . . .

THE END

There will be another stirring JON JARL story in next month's CAPTAIN MARVEL ADVENTURES!

CAPTAIN MARVEL







CAPTAIN MARVEL



CAPTAIN MARVEL











HAVE



















RETURN OF MR. TAWNY



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ARCHEST OF PRIMATES,
AND LIVES IN DENSE
JUNGLES

BILLY BATSON, BOY NEWS-CASTER OF STATION WHIZ. ARRIVES AT THE MUSEUM CH A SPECIAL VISIT.

AR. TAYNY, THE TALKING TIGER, CAME PROM THE JUNG HE WANTED TO SEE CYLIZATE BUT HE SCARED PROPLE TO DEATH (ATTL CAPTAIN MARVEL SHOWED HE WAS HARMLESS!























DON'T YOU SEE ?
SOMBRODY ELSE
SHOT HIM FROM
THE WINDOW!
MINNOCENT!

HIMMM!
A CLEMER STORY.
BLIT MANBE YOU
KILLED YOUR.
BOSS SO YOU
COULD HAVE
HIS JOB. IT
LOOKS BAP FOR

YOU .





SOMEON I THIN YOUNG TON IS SHOREDY BUT HOW SERVE AND THE CHARLY NO LINYER VILL BE ASKET TO LINYER VILL BE ASKET TO









































































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